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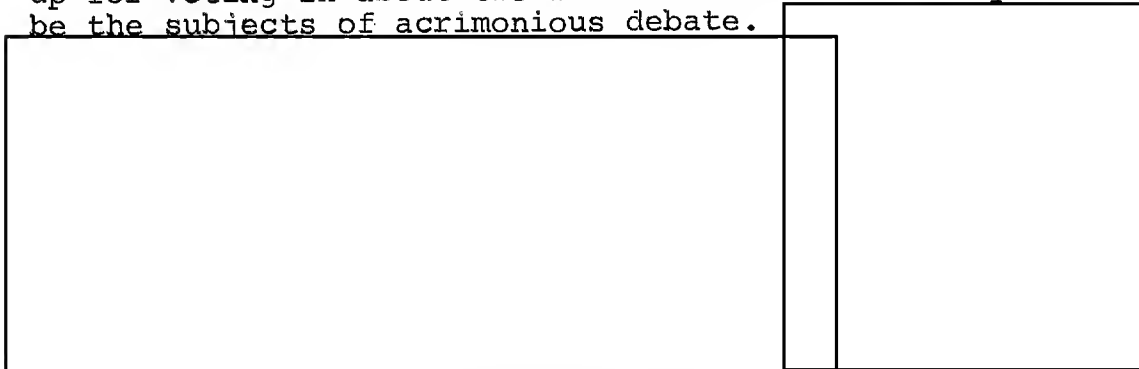
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UN - Arms Control: Sweden appears determined to provoke a debate with the US at the UN on the tear gas issue.

The chief Swedish disarmament expert at the UN told the US mission--following Washington's announcement of its intent to resubmit the Geneva Protocol of 1925 for ratification--that her government will continue to push its draft resolution on chemical and biological warfare (CBW). The proposal would have the General Assembly condemn and declare contrary to international law the use in war of all CBW agents, including tear gas and herbicides. Sweden has been notably successful in securing backing on this issue from most of the other nonaligned nations represented at the Geneva disarmament talks.

Meanwhile, according to a UK official at the UN, the Canadians are considering a blending of their draft Assembly resolution on CBW with that of the Soviet Union. The result reportedly would include a provision requesting the Geneva conferees to conduct urgent negotiations aimed at reaching agreement on a convention prohibiting the development, production, and stockpiling of CBW agents and requiring the destruction of existing weapons in that field. Such a provision would effectively constitute Assembly support of Foreign Minister Gromyko's CBW initiative sketched at the UN last September.

The several CBW resolutions will probably come up for voting in about two weeks and will certainly be the subjects of acrimonious debate.



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GUATEMALA: Guerrillas Continue Rural Operations



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Guatemala: Guerrillas, whose operations in the north came to light nearly two months ago, continue to elude the armed forces.

A 50-man band of the Communist Rebel Armed Forces appears to have split into two groups, possibly as an evasion tactic. Bad weather has hampered the army's pursuit of the groups, whose style in two recent raids is similar to that of the guerrillas who struck drilling sites in Alta Verapaz in early October.

A band of about 24 men occupied a small village in Huehuetenango on 26 November.

On 21 November three farms near the Alta Verapaz - Quiche border were occupied by two guerrilla groups totaling about 50 men. None of the occupants was harmed, and the guerrillas gave a lengthy propaganda harangue with an invitation to join the revolutionary cause. The two raids appear to have been foraging expeditions.

One group reportedly is heading north, and the group reported in Huehuetenango is believed to be traveling west. Various army units, including the rapid reaction paratrooper force from San Jose, are engaging in the search for the guerrillas.

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Pakistan: The timetable for a return to civilian rule should reduce the pressures that have been building up against the government.

Suspensions that President Yahya Khan might intend to retain power indefinitely will presumably be laid to rest, at least temporarily, by his announcement yesterday that national elections will be held on 5 October 1970. Restrictions on normal political activity, in effect since martial law was imposed in March, are to be removed by the end of this year. The October balloting will choose delegates to a constituent assembly that is to draw up a constitution within 120 days. Should the legislators fail to do so, they will be dismissed and another assembly elected to finish the task. This means that the present administration could continue to rule well into 1971.

Yahya made several concessions to the various elements that combined last winter to bring down the Ayub regime. West Pakistan, administered as a unified state since 1956, will again be split into ethnic and linguistic provinces in response to minority demands for an end to Punjabi domination. Yahya's specific acceptance of the one man - one vote formula for elections meets a long-standing demand from more populous East Pakistan. He made a further concession to East Pakistan by proposing maximum provincial autonomy consonant with national integrity.

The President's pledge to reduce prices and end food deficiencies, as well as his promise to eliminate corruption among government officials, are designed to placate other critics of his administration. It remains to be seen, however, whether Yahya's economic moves and his exhortation for a "disciplined national effort" to overcome the nation's problems will reduce the recent trend toward increased labor unrest.

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USSR: Moscow is continuing to expand its air service to the Far East. According to a press report, a civil air agreement was signed with Malaysia on 27 November but will not be implemented until sometime next year. The Soviet civil airline Aeroflot, which began flying to Singapore via New Delhi in May 1969, probably will include a stop at Kuala Lumpur on this route. Moscow also provides service to Djakarta via Colombo and has held civil air discussions with Thailand and Cambodia.

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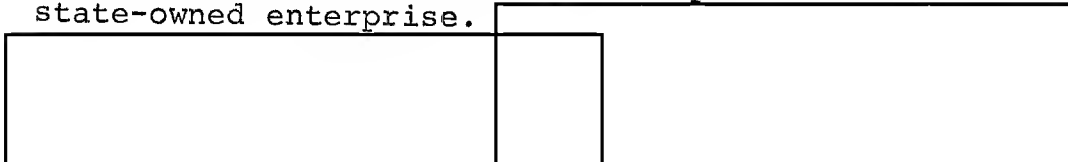
Communist China - Eastern Europe: Peking is moving more of its East European trade through Yugoslavia since the two countries re-established shipping service last September. Yugoslavia's Mediterranean port of Rijeka provides a closer outlet to China for such countries as Romania, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia than the more distant Communist ports on the Black and Baltic seas. The Chinese have chartered several Yugoslav and free world ships to call at Yugoslav ports to pick up Romanian goods. Peking also has established a permanent port agent in Yugoslavia and is sending its own flag ships to Yugoslavia for the first time. Belgrade has welcomed the increase in shipping and hopes to send a delegation to Peking to discuss ways of improving the new service.

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Ecuador: The government may nationalize the All American Cable & Radio Corporation, a subsidiary of the US-owned International Telephone and Telegraph Company. This subsidiary, which normally handles 70 percent of Ecuador's international cable traffic, is currently involved in a strike that appears to have government support. The shutdown has diverted business to the financially strapped state-owned telecommunications company. Despite a recent government announcement that foreign capital would be protected, it appears unlikely that the company will be allowed to continue to compete with the state-owned enterprise.



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